

Schedule Update for the Release of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

The Michigan Department of Transportation, working cooperatively with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), General Services Administration (GSA) and the U.S. Custom and Border Protection (CBP) are currently preparing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for proposed improvements to the Port of Entry at Port Huron, Michigan and the adjacent I-94/I-69 corridor. The public release of this document originally anticipated for February 2009 will be delayed until the end of March 2009. Following the release of this document, a 30-day waiting period will be held where the public can review and comment on the FEIS. If no major new issues are discovered during this waiting period, the FHWA can then issue a Record of Decision (ROD).

The ROD is the official document which authorizes MDOT to move forward with the design and right-of-way acquisition phases of the project. The earliest the ROD could be issued is late April/early May 2009.

The reason for the delay of the FEIS release is because of the estimated cost of the project which exceeds \$500 million. In accordance with FHWA guidelines, all projects exceeding this \$500 million threshold must undergo an independent cost verification session. MDOT and FHWA will hold the BWB plaza study cost verification session in mid-March 2009. Once complete, FHWA will sign the FEIS and MDOT will release the FEIS.

The FEIS will address comments and issues raised by federal, state, and local agencies and the public during the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The document will also include an extensive overview of the Recommended Alternative and the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures MDOT proposes to implement to offset the direct and indirect impacts associated with proposed improvements.

When released, the document will be available for review at the study web-site (www.michigan.gov/bluewaterbridgeproject) and at the following locations:

St. Clair County Library	City of Port Huron, Office of the City Clerk
St. Clair County Planning Office	Fort Gratiot Township
Port Huron Township	MDOT Port Huron Transportation Service Center
MDOT Region Office in Southfield	MDOT Planning Office in Lansing

For additional information, please contact 1-800-955-3515.